

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forms Under Review by Office of Management and Budget

May 26, 1995.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted to OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) since the last list was published. This list is grouped into new proposals, revisions, extension, or reinstatements. Each entry contains the following information:

(1) Agency proposing the information collection; (2) Title of the information collection; (3) Form number(s), if applicable; (4) Who will be required or asked to report; (5) An estimate of the number of responses; (6) An estimate of the total number of hours needed to provide the information; (7) Name and telephone number of the agency contact person.

Questions about the items in the listing should be directed to the agency person named at the end of each entry. Copies of the proposed forms and supporting documents may be obtained from: Department Clearance Officer, USDA, OIRM, Room 404-W Admin. Bldg., Washington, DC 20250, (202) 690-2118.

Revision

- Consolidated Farm Service Agency 7 CFR 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416—Forms for Participation in Price Support and Production Adjustment Programs CCC-477, 477 Appendix, CCC-477B, CCC-477A, ASCS-503, ASCS 658-1, CCC-505, CCC-507A, CCC-406, 406 Appendix, CCC-300, 300 Appendix, CCC-302, CCC-135, 135 Appendix, CCC-136
- Farms; 1,740,000 responses; 433,400 hours
- Bruce Hiatt (202) 690-2798
- Food and Consumer Services
- FSP Store Applications

Form FNS-252; 252A; 252R and 252-2 Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; 112,023 responses; 32,482 hours

Preston Mears (703) 305-2419

Food and Consumer Services
Requisition for Food Stamp Coupon Books

Form FNS-260

State, Local or Tribal Government; 6,900 responses; 3,450 hours

Asher Bryte (703) 305-2418

Donald E. Hulcher,

Deputy Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 95-13479 Filed 6-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 052595A]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P521A).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. James Spotila and Dr. Pamela Plotkin of Drexel University have applied in due form for a permit to take listed sea turtles for the purpose of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application must be received on or before July 3, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by appointment in the following offices:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13307, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 (508-281-9250).

Written comments, or requests for a public hearing on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The application requests a permit under the authority of the Endangered Species Act

of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227). The applicant requests authorization to take 100 listed loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, and *Lepidochelys kempii*) in 1995. The animals will be measured, examined, photographed, tagged, have blood and fecal samples taken, and be released at the site of capture. The purpose of the research is to assess the distribution and population dynamics of sea turtles in Delaware Bay.

Those individuals requesting a hearing (see **ADDRESSES**) should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular application would be appropriate. The holding of such hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in this application summary are those of the Applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

Dated: May 25, 1995.

Russell J. Bellmer,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-13445 Filed 6-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 052695A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of modification to permit no. 945 (P319D).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on May 25, 1995, permit no. 945, issued to Randall S. Wells, Ph.D., Dolphin Biology Research Institute, c/o Mote Marine Laboratory, 1600 Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236 was modified.

ADDRESSES: The modification and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive,

North St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813/570-5312).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject modification has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the provisions of § 216.33(d) and (e) of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The original permit authorized the the Holder to capture, sample and/or conduct procedures for the assessment of various health parameters and subsequently release up to 150 individual dolphins near the Sarasota, Florida, area over a 5-year period. Special condition A.4 of the original permit has been altered to reflect the circumstances needed to conduct the specified research activities.

Dated: May 25, 1995.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits & Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-13513 Filed 6-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 9505 31 44-5144-01]

Request for Comments on Proposed Examination Guidelines for Computer-Implemented Inventions

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) requests comments from any interested member of the public on proposed internal guidelines to be used by Office personnel in their review of patent applications on computer-implemented inventions. Because these guidelines govern internal practices, they are exempt from notice and comment rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A).

DATES: Written comments on the proposed guidelines will be accepted by the PTO until July 31, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, marked to the attention of Jeff Kushan. Comments submitted by mail should be sent to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Comments may also be submitted by telefax at (703) 305-8885 and by electronic mail through the

Internet to "comments-software@uspto.gov." Written comments should include the following information:

- name and affiliation of the individual responding;
- an indication of whether comments offered represent views of the respondent's organization or are the respondent's personal views; and
- if applicable, information on the respondent's organization, including the type of organization (e.g., business, trade group, university, non-profit organization) and general areas of interest.

Parties presenting written comments who wish to have their comments included in a publicly accessible electronic database of comments must provide their comments in machine-readable format. Such submissions may be provided in the form of an electronic mail message sent through the Internet, or on a 3.5" floppy disk formatted for use in either a Macintosh or MS-DOS based computer. Machine-readable submissions must be provided as unformatted text (e.g., ASCII or plain text).

All written comments, whether submitted on paper or in machine-readable form, will be available for public inspection no later than August 18, 1995, in Room 902 of Crystal Park Two, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. In addition, comments provided in machine-readable format will be available no later than August 18, 1995, through anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) via the Internet (address: comments.uspto.gov) and through the World Wide Web (address: www.uspto.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Kushan by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by fax at (703) 305-8885, by electronic mail at kushan@uspto.gov, or by mail marked to his attention addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Guidelines for Examination of Computer-Implemented Inventions

A. General Considerations

The following guidelines have been developed to assist Office personnel in their review of applications drawn to computer-implemented inventions. These guidelines respond to recent changes in the law that governs the patentability of computer-implemented inventions, and set forth the official policy of the Office regarding inventions in this field of technology.

It is essential that patent applicants obtain a prompt yet complete examination of their applications. The Office can best achieve this goal by raising any issue that may affect patentability in the initial action on the merits. Under the principles of compact prosecution, each claim should be reviewed for compliance with every statutory requirement of patentability in the initial review of the application, even if one or more claims is found to be deficient with respect to one statutory requirement. Deficiencies should be explained clearly, particularly when they serve as a basis of a rejection. Where possible, examiners should indicate how rejections may be overcome and problems resolved. A failure to follow this approach can lead to unnecessary delays in the prosecution of the application.

B. Procedures To Be Followed When Evaluating Computer-Implemented Inventions

The following procedures should be used when reviewing applications drawn to computer-implemented inventions.

1. Determine what the applicant has invented by reviewing the written description and the claims.

(a) Identify any specific embodiments of the invention that have been disclosed, review the detailed description of the invention and note the specific utility that has been asserted for the invention.

(b) Analyze each claim carefully, correlating each claim element to the relevant portion of the written description that describes that element. Give claim elements their broadest reasonable interpretation that is consistent with the written description. If elements of a claimed invention are defined in means plus function format, review the written description to identify the specific structure, materials or acts that correspond to each such element.

(c) Considering each claim as a whole, classify the invention defined by each claim as to its statutory category (i.e., process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter). Rely on the following presumptions in making this classification.

(i) A computer or other programmable apparatus whose actions are directed by a computer program or other form of "software" is a statutory "machine."

(ii) A computer-readable memory that can be used to direct a computer to function in a particular manner when used by the computer [1] is a statutory "article of manufacture".